



## Message from the Director

On October 18, Governor JB Pritzker filed an appeal on behalf of the citizens of Illinois strongly requesting the federal government reconsider its decision to deny Individual Assistance (IA) to residents under the federal Stafford Act following the historic spring flooding that occurred along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

In this appeal, the State of Illinois provided additional information and justifications to make its case for an IA designation even stronger. The new documentation provides evidence of ongoing impacts to individuals and community infrastructure as a direct result of the disaster, and underscores that an effective recovery is not likely to occur without federal assistance to individuals and households.

Counties included in the Individual Assistance (IA) request: Adams; Alexander; Calhoun; Carroll; Hancock; Henderson; Henry; Jackson; Jersey; Knox; Madison; Mercer; Monroe; Peoria; Pike; Randolph; Rock Island; Stephenson; Union; Whiteside; Winnebago; and Woodford counties.



On a semi-related note, I am also pleased to announce that FEMA added Lee County to the State's existing Public Assistance (PA) disaster declaration. A recent joint Preliminary Damage Assessment conducted by FEMA, IEMA and local jurisdictions identified additional damage not collected during a previous assessment conducted in July. This new data brings Lee County's disaster related costs to more than \$387,000, an increase of over \$285,000 from the county's previously validated costs. This inclusion will grant local governments, non-profits and houses of worship in Lee County access to grants or loans that will help with flood-related losses or costs incurred from battling this year's historic flood. Under the guidelines of the PA program, local jurisdictions can be reimbursed for up to 75 percent of eligible costs. The program can provide funding for debris removal, implementation of emergency protective measures and permanent restoration of infrastructure.

While we wait for news from FEMA, now more than three months removed from this disaster, many communities continue to struggle to recover from this historic flood. To make matters worse, winter is nearing. While it may not officially be winter on the calendar, meteorologist are already forecasting snow in parts of our state. Please keep your neighbors in mind as the seasons change. During a disaster, 46-percent of individuals expect to rely on the people in their neighborhood within the first 72-hours following an emergency or disaster.

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# November is Winter Weather Preparedness Month

While the official start of winter is not for several weeks, parts of Illinois have already experienced the first snowfall of the season. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) are encouraging people to begin preparing now for extreme cold, snow and ice.

"In Illinois, it's not a question of if, but rather when will snow, ice and sub-zero temperatures occur," said Acting IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "Being unprepared for winter weather is not only inconvenient, but it can be dangerous. That's why we are encouraging all Illinoisans to take a few minutes to put together your home and vehicle emergency supply kits and review the steps you should take to stay safe during hazardous winter weather."

In terms of weather, 2019 has been a record-breaking year in Illinois. The new year brought a Polar Vortex that crippled most of the Midwest, including blanketing Illinois with life-threatening temperatures for several days. According to the NWS, the coldest temperature on record occurred this year (January 31) when the mercury dropped to negative 38 degrees near Mt. Carroll in Carroll County. The previous record of negative 36 degrees was set in 1999.

From 2008-2018, there were 788 fatalities related to cold temperatures in Illinois, which is more than heat (227), tornadoes (23), floods (38) and severe storms/lightning (17) combined. In the United States, about 700 deaths occur each year from hypothermia. Infants and the elderly are particularly at risk of hypothermia.

"There are several dangerous health conditions that can occur specifically in winter weather," said Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "It's important to watch for signs of extreme cold. Hypothermia, when a person's body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit, can occur both outdoors and indoors and can be fatal. Frostbite occurs when your extremities (fingers, toes, nose, and ears) are exposed to cold weather. The skin may become stiff and numb leading to severe tissue damage. Also, watch for symptoms of chest pain when shoveling snow which can be associated with overexertion. Know the warning signs of dangerous cold weather health conditions in order to stay safe and healthy during the winter."

Unfortunately, no matter how low the temperature dips, many Illinois workers will face the frigid elements to do their jobs. Cold weather is never pleasant, but by taking some precautions, workers can minimize the dangers.

"Freezing, snowy weather is a fact of life in Illinois during the winter, and some people feel they can tough it out," said Illinois Department of Labor Director Michael Kleinik. "But if you're required to work outdoors, you're tempting fate by not dressing properly on frigid days."

Caution and self-awareness are the keys to cold weather safety. Workers should know the signs of hypothermia, not push their bodies to an extreme, layer clothing and make sure they have plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.

"The signs of danger initially may be subtle but once they hit, they can hit like a snowplow," said Mitch Rogers, administrator for Memorial Health System's Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Services in Springfield. Preventative maintenance is also a good idea. Rogers suggests people who must work outside regularly in the winter weather consider scheduling a physical exam before that winter work begins.

To help Illinois residents prepare for winter, IEMA and the NWS developed a winter weather preparedness guide that covers winter weather terms and tips for staying safe at home, in the car and at school. The guide is available on the Ready Illinois website at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).

"Preparing well in advance of winter weather is really the best way to cope when snow, ice and cold temperatures affect us," said Chris Miller, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the NWS office in Lincoln. "Now is the time to prepare your vehicle and house for winter conditions. Make sure you have blankets, non-perishable food, boots, extra clothing and other items in your car in case you are stranded or waiting for a tow. At home, make sure you have enough essential items to ride out a storm, or if you are without power, for at least three days."

For more information about winter weather preparedness, including the *Weathering Winter* guide from the Illinois Department of Public Health, visit the Ready Illinois website at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).

# Shakeout Participation

On October 17, nearly 300,000 Illinois residents took part in the annual Great Shakeout earthquake drill. At 10:17 a.m., registered participants stopped what they were doing and practiced the “Drop, Cover, Hold On” technique that is advised for personal protection during an earthquake. With active seismic zones flanking the state’s eastern and western border, it is important that everyone know how to stay safe during an earthquake.

“Whether you are at school, at work, at home or on vacation, an earthquake can happen at any time, anywhere and without warning,” said Acting IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “This is why the Shakeout earthquake drill is so important. This preparedness drill raises awareness of the hazards that we often do not think about. The more we practice this critical preparedness drill – Drop, Cover, Hold On - the more prepared we will be if a disaster were to occur.”

The largest earthquake to ever rattle North America occurred in 1811 in New Madrid, Missouri, near southern Illinois. If a similar quake struck the same spot today, according to a 2008 University of Illinois study, the impact would be catastrophic: 3,500 fatalities, 2.6 million without power, \$300 billion in direct economic loss. Most of southern Illinois sits atop one of two major

fault zones – the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. We know these faults are active, with sizeable earthquakes reported as recently as 2008.

On the day of the Shakeout earthquake drill, IEMA staff visited Glenwood Elementary School in Chatham to discuss the risk of earthquakes in Illinois and the importance of being prepared with the students. At 10:17 a.m., an announcement was broadcast into each classroom that the ShakeOut earthquake drill was beginning. At that time, students practiced the ‘Drop, Cover and Hold On’ actions that should be taken when the earth starts to shake. At the end of the visit, each student was given a homework assignment: Teach mom and dad how to Drop, Cover, Hold On and begin building their home emergency supply kit.

For more information about earthquake risks and additional preparedness tip, visit [www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov).



## COMINGS & GOINGS at IEMA

### NEW EMPLOYEE

- **Brent Hamilton**, Disaster Services Planner, PGA

### POSITION CHANGE

- **Michael Borcky**, from OPS Regional Coordinator to OPS Manager of Training and Exercise

### RETIREMENT

- **Deb Curtis**, Accountant Advanced, Fiscal

### SEPARATION - OTHER STATE AGENCY

- **Bryan Clow**, Public Service Administrator, PGA

# Chemical Safety in Illinois

*The mission of IEMA's Hazardous Material Section is to promote chemical safety within the State of Illinois, through communication, cooperation, & coordination.*

This is our mission, and EPCRA (Emergency Planning and Right to Know Act) is at the heart of what we do, laying the foundation for supporting LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) initiatives, in coordinating with Fire Departments, EMAs, and Regional Coordinators for the greater, public good.

Within this effort, we utilize the Tier II Manager program, which serves as a repository for over 8500, active facilities in Illinois. With over 99% of these facilities filing chemical inventories for the year of 2018, they contributed greatly toward chemical awareness and public safety.

Acting as the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) for Illinois, we actively support LEPC's in

their endeavor to promote chemical awareness within communities, while engaging local officials, by building strong relationships, in order to develop effective emergency response plans, at least annually; thereby, protecting our citizens, from unnecessary risk, and preparing for the unexpected.

While the fact remains, it's not a matter of if, but, when an event happens, the Hazardous Materials Section also monitors incident notifications, as they arrive, while accepting and receiving written responses and/or reports from the responsible parties involved. This information is promptly recorded on the Illinois Incident Reporting System, to coincide with the proposition of EPCRA, that people have the right to know the nature of chemicals, within their local communities.



## Grant Funding Available

Local governments have the opportunity to apply for federal mitigation funding. FEMA has posted the Fiscal Year 2019 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements for the [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) and [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\)](#) competitive grant programs on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

These NOFOs provide an overview of the grant programs and details about FEMA's funding priorities and review process.

FMA grants are available to implement measures to reduce or eliminate risk of severe repetitive and repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#). In FY19, \$160 million is available for FMA grants.

The PDM grant program aims to reduce overall risk to the population and structures through mitigation, while at the same time reducing reliance on federal funding from [Stafford Act](#) disaster declarations. \$250 million is available for FY19 PDM grants. FEMA will use the majority of the PDM funding for mitigation projects, although mitigation planning is also an eligible cost.

For FEMA FMA, further information is available in the NOFO: [DHS-19-MT-029-000-99](#) and [FY 2019 FMA Fact Sheet](#)



For FEMA PDM, further information is available in the NOFO: [DHS-19-MT-047-000-99](#) and [FY 2019 PDM Fact Sheet](#)

Final Applications must be submitted to IEMA on December 6, 2019. No exceptions, IEMA will not accept any applications submitted after December 6, 2019.

For additional information, please email Sam Al-Basha, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at [sam.m.al-basha@illinois.gov](mailto:sam.m.al-basha@illinois.gov).

## Thanksgiving Fire Safety

Thanksgiving is a day when Americans gather with family and friends to celebrate, cook and eat, but it is also the nation's leading day for cooking fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (USFA), the number of cooking fires on Thanksgiving is three times as high as on any other day of the year. That's why it's important to keep fire safety top of mind, while in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time of year. In addition to the hazards posed by jammed stovetops and crowded kitchens, turkey fryers also contribute to the elevated fire risk on Turkey Day. Preventing fires is simple when following some basic precautions.

*(continued on page 6)*



# Thanksgiving Fire Safety *(continued from page 5)*

## Stovetops and Ovens

Busy cooks can become distracted preparing several dishes at once while also trying to entertain guests. Cooking fires can easily be prevented by following a few simple precautions:

- Start the holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Remove food and grease buildup from burners, stovetop, and oven.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking and don't become distracted by guests.
- When cooking a turkey, set a timer and check on it frequently.
- Keep a flame-resistant oven mitt, potholder or lid nearby to smother any flames.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- Have working smoke alarms in the home.

## Turkey Fryers

Remember: Never use a turkey fryer indoors, in the garage or on a covered patio because of the fire hazard.

- Completely thaw the turkey.
- Do not overfill the fryer with oil. Before dumping a few gallons of oil into the fryer, test it out with water. Place the turkey inside and then fill it with water until the bird is submerged. Remove the turkey and mark the water line on the fryer so you will

know how much oil to put in the fryer.

- Never leave the fryer unattended.
- Keep children and pets well away from the fryer. Remember the oil will remain dangerously hot for hours.
- Allow at least two feet of space between the liquid propane tank and the fryer burner.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts; wear safety goggles to protect eyes from oil splatter.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn OFF the gas supply.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Since most units do not have automatic thermostatic controls, oil may heat until it catches fire.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.

*(Information for this article was gathered from the National Fire Protection Association)*

## Thanksgiving by the numbers

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by the day before Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, and Christmas Eve.
- In 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,760 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking equipment was involved in almost half of all reported home fires and home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

*Source: NFPA's Fire Analysis & Research Division*



# November 2019 Training Schedule

## **Pressurized Water Reactor Technology**

November 4-8

IEMA Rodger Street Training Facility

## **Volunteer and Donations Management**

November 5-7

Region 4 Office, Des Plaines

## **Basic Public Information Officer**

November 5-6

Bensenville Police Station, Bensenville

## **Disaster Canine Search Training** (USAR Members Only)

November 6

West Chicago RTA

## **Community Planning for Disaster Recovery**

November 7

Dixon Public Safety Building, Dixon

## **Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings**

November 7

Jon Davis Wrestling Center, Edwardsville

## **Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents**

November 7

Jon Davis Wrestling Center, Edwardsville

## **Effective Communications**

November 13

State Regional Office, Marion

## **Volunteer and Donations Management**

November 14

Douglas County

## **G318 Mitigation Planning Workshop for Local Government**

November 18-19

Lake Storey Pavilion, Galesburg

## **MGT310 Threat and Risk Assessment**

November 19-20

John A. Logan College, Carterville

## **L426 Building a Roadmap to Resilience**

November 19-21

LaSalle County EMA, Ottawa

## Staff Spotlight: Jason Sanford

Jason currently serves as Urban Area Security Initiative Administrator at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Prior to joining IEMA, Jason served as Senior Emergency Management Coordinator with the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications where he developed the first ever supply chain resilience program that strategically increased fuel management capabilities by integrating Chicago's five largest fuel companies into the disaster battle rhythm. This key initiative allowed critical information to be shared between the fuel supply chain industry and Chicago government officials. The supply chain resilience project also increased resilience capabilities by integrating 60% of private food distribution industry into the government emergency operations system. Jason also coordinated with stakeholders to develop the Emergency Repatriation Plan for the City of Chicago.

Prior to joining OEMC, Jason served as Vulnerable Populations Coordinator and Preparedness Coordinator for the State of Georgia. Jason developed the state strategic operations plan for vulnerable populations by building alliances with 365 nursing homes, 300 dialysis centers, and all state healthcare facilities directly connected to the local county emergency management



agencies. He co-chaired to the State of Georgia Resilience Taskforce to change policy and developed the strategy guidance for reducing vulnerabilities across 159 counties from 2014-2016. Jason developed the operational system that connected 300 private dialysis facilities to the state information sharing portal which provided real time and essential private sector data all while responding to tropical storm Joaquin, Hurricane Hermine, Hurricane Matthew, and the 2014 Ice-storms at the State Emergency Operations Center.

Jason holds a Master's in Homeland Security from Penn State University, a Master's in Public Health from Benedictine University, and a Bachelor's in Urban Ministries from Moody Bible Institute.

### Best piece of advice:

"You have to go the way your blood beats. If you don't live the only life you have, you won't live some other life, you won't live any life at all."

- James Baldwin

### Three interesting facts about me:

- My mom still lives in my hometown of DuBois, Pennsylvania population 8,000.
- Internship was in Israel, as cross-cultural missionary
- Inspire to run for elected office someday

### Small things that make your day better?

Jumping in my jeep and listening to some good music.

# IEMA GIVES BACK

As part of this year's agency-wide SECA campaign, employees of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency raised money for the Central Illinois Foodbank, as selected by Director Tate-Nadeau. In October, IEMA employees raised \$940.32 through these fun activities:



**Popcorn Days \$133 raised**



**Pumpkin Decorating Contest \$225.32 raised**



**Dunk the Deputy & BBQ  
\$327 raised**



**Pie in the Face  
\$255 raised**



**Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:**  
**<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.**



**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

*For more information on this newsletter, contact:*

**Rebecca Clark** (Rebecca.B.Clark@Illinois.gov)